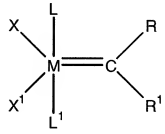
Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a hydrogenated nitrile rubber comprising reacting a nitrile rubber in the presence of hydrogen, optionally at least one co-olefin, and in the presence of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds of the general formula I,



Formula I

wherein

M is Os or Ru,

R and R^1 are, independently, hydrogen or a hydrocarbon selected from the group consisting of C_2-C_{20} alkenyl, C_2-C_{20} alkynyl, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, C_1-C_{20} carboxylate, C_1-C_{20} alkoxy, C_2-C_{20} alkenyloxy, C_2-C_{20} alkynyloxy, aryloxy, C_2-C_{20} alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_{20} alkylthio, C_1-C_{20} alkylsulfonyl and C_1-C_{20} alkylsulfinyl,

X and X^1 are independently any anionic ligand,

L is any neutral ligand

L' is selected from any 1-3 disubsituted imidazolidinylidene or 1,3 disubstituted imidazolidine ligand,

wherein a metathesis reaction and a hydrogenation reaction occur simultaneously.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1 wherein the process occurs in the absence of any co-olefin.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim [[3]] 1 wherein ~~either~~ L is a trialkylphosphine and L^1 is an imidazolidinylidene, X and X^1 are chloride ions and M is ruthenium.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-4~~ wherein the ratio of compound to nitrile rubber is in the range of from 0.005 to 5.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to any of claims claim 1[[-5]] wherein the process is carried out in an inert solvent selected from the group consisting of monochlorobenzene, dichloromethane, benzene, toluene, tetrahydrofuran and cyclohexane.